(d) whether Government propose to give any assistance to State Governments for this purpose; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission has prepared a report on 'National Mission on Bamboo Technology and Trade Development'. Various components and the financial requirements under the Mission have been envisaged as under:

	(Rs. in crores)
• Bamboo Plantation (2million ha)	2000.00
• Technology development and transfer for planting material	53.00
• Technology intervention on process and products including standards and codes	139.00
• Handicrafts development including training	275.00
• Trade and Market Development	125.00
• Technology Development	16.00
Total	2608.00

(c) and (d) Under the 'National Mission on Bamboo Technology and Trade Development' bamboo plantations over two million ha are envisaged to be undertaken through various agencies and interventions. The Ministry of Agriculture has been designated as the Nodal Ministry for preparation of Action Plan for implementation of the recommendations of the Reports.

Improvement in GER for boys and girls in Orissa

*283. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of children (boys and girls separately) in age group of 6 to 14 years, who go to school in Orissa;

(b) what are the latest figures for Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) and dropout ratio for boys and girls at primary level in Orissa; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the GER especially for girls in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) According to the information

received from Government of Orissa, 38,50,068 boys and 30,80,773 girls in the age group of 6-14 are enrolled as on 30.6.2003 in schools and EGS centres in Orissa.

The gross enrolment ratio for boys and girls in Orissa at primary level is 107.00% and 102.28% respectively. The dropout rate for boys and girls at primary level in Orissa is 30.75% and 33.96% respectively.

The Government of India and Government of Orissa in partnership, are implementing the SSA programme for Universalization of Elementary Education in the State. The SSA programme in Orissa currently includes special interventions to promote girls enrolment through the opening of 14311 Education Guarantee Centes, 9114 Alternative and Innovative Education Centres, bridge courses for mainstreaming of out-of-school girl children, special camps for girls in the 9-14 age group and for girls of migrating families, free textbooks for girls and separate toilets for girls in schools. In addition, the State Government is running an enrolment campaign called "School Chala Abhiyan" this year.

Technical Education Quality and Improvement Programme

*284. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are implementing a Technical Education Quality and Improvement Programme (TEQIP) with the help of some international agencies; and

(b) if so, the details of the programme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme of Government of India (TEQIP) has been conceived with an objective to upscale and support ongoing efforts of the Government to improve quality of technical education and enhance existing capacities of the institutions to become dynamic, demand-driven, quality conscious, efficient and forward looking, responsive to rapid economic and technological developments occuring both at national and international levels.